

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4114

DEPT. ALSO FOR GEORGE PHILLIPS, LA/MRSD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EC
SUBJECT: CEOSL POLITICAL PARTY ENDORSES HUERTA

REF: QUTIO 2762;

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JUNE 5 THE CEOSL-RELATED POLITICAL PARTY, PEP, ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT OF LIBERAL PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RAUL CLEMENTE HUERTA. GIVEN THIS POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF CEOSL WITH ECUADOR'S DEMOCRATIC MAINSTREAM, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS RESUMPTION OF NORMAL AIFLD PROGRAMMING. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JUNE 5 THE CEOSL-RELATED (ECUADOREAN CONFEDERATION OF FREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS) POLITICAL PARTY, PEP (ECUADOREAN PEOPLES' PARTY, FORMERLY PEPT) ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT FOR LIBERAL RAUL CLEMENTE HUERTA. THE PEP ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED SEVERAL MONTHS OF CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PEP DIRECTOR AK AND CEOSL PRESIDENT) JOSE CHAVEZ AND THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF THE CENTER AND CENTER-LEFT.

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3. IN A CONVERSATION JUNE 12 WITH POL/LABOFF CHAVEZ SAID THAT PEP HAD ALLIED ITSELF WITH HUERTA BECAUSE IT HAD DETERMINED THAT HUERTA AND SIXTO DURAN-BALLEN WERE THE ONLY CANDIDATES WITH POSSIBILITIES OF ELECTION. BORJA IS NOT ELECTABLE, SAID CHAVEZ, AND THE MILITARY WOULD NEVER PERMIT ROLDOS TO ASSUME OFFICE. DURAN-BALLEN, BEING THE CANDIDATE OF THE RIGHT, WAS NEVER AN ALTERNATIVE.

4. HUERTA ALSO OFFERED SOME INDUCEMENTS. ACCORDING TO CHAVEZ, HUERTA HAS AGREED TO NAME CEOSL'S CANDIDATE AS MINISTER OF LABOR, GIVE CEOSL LOWER LEVEL REPRESENTATION IN SEVERAL OTHER MINISTRIES, AND ALLOW CEOSL TO NAME LABOR REPRESENTATION TO GOVERNMENT BODIES HAVING SUCH REPRESENTATION (SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE, ETC.).

5. CHAVEZ, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A LABOR MEETING IN GERMANY, REPORTED THAT WHILE THERE HE HAD HAD INTERVIEWS WITH REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION. CHAVEZ WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE FOUNDATION WAS GOING TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PEP, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOUNDATION'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ECUADOR'S DEMOCRATIC LEFT (ID) PARTY.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PEP HAS GIVEN NO SIGNS OF CREATING A STRONG AND NECESSARY RANK AND FILE THAT WILL ALLOW IT TO DEVELOP AND SURVIVE AS A SIGNIFICANT AND PERMANENT PARTY, ITS CLEAR IDENTIFICATION WITH THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER OF ECUADOR'S POLITICAL SPECTRUM SERVES TO REMOVE THE THORN OF ITS COZY CONNECTIONS WITH COMMUNIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS (CEDOC AND CTE) FROM ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE AFL-CIO AIFLD (AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT) AND THE EMBASSY.

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7. ALTHOUGH IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE SUPPORT OF THE PEP WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE CHANCES OF A HUERTA PRESIDENCY, SHOULD HUERTA IN FACT WIN, CEOSL'S DEMOCRATIC ORIENTATION WOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED AND, WITH ITS CLOSENESS TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT, IT SHOULD ALSO RESUME ITS EARLIER PROGRESS ON THE TRADE UNION FRONT. CEOSL WOULD HAVE LITTLE INCENTIVE TO PURSUE ITS FLIRTATION WITH THE MARXISTS IN THIS CASE.

8. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE CEOSL SPLINTER HEADED BY LUIS VILLACRES HAS ENDORSED HUERTA'S STRONGEST OPPONENT, SIXTO DURAN-BALLEN. IN THE CASE OF A DURAN-BALLEN VICTORY, VILLACRES, IT CAN BE ASSUMED, WOULD GAIN IN MUCH THE SAME WAY THAT CHAVEZ' CEOSL WOULD PROFIT FROM A HUERTA VICTORY. IN SUCH A CASE, CHAVEZ MIGHT NOT RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO SEEK COMMON GROUND AGAIN WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

9. IN THE ABSENCE OF FURTHER JOINT ACTIVITIES BETWEEN CHAVEZ' CEOSL AND THE COMMUNISTS FOLLOWING MAY 1 (AS CHAVEZ PROMISED) AND IN VIEW OF THE POSITIVE ACT OF AFFILIATING PEP WITH THE HUERTA CAMPAIGN, THE EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO RECOMMEND A RESUMPTION OF THE NORMAL

CONTRACTURAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AIFLD AND CEOSL, BUT
TO CONTINUE IN SUSPENSE THE DELIVERY OF THE OUTSIDE OF
CONTRACT VEHICLE AND PRINTING PRESS UNTIL THE TERMINATION
OF THE JULY 16 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. AT THAT TIME THE
EMBASSY WILL AGAIN REVIEW THE SITUATION AND OFFER
APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS.
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